

Enzi	Kirk	Scott
Fischer	Lee	Sessions
Grassley	McConnell	Shelby
Heller	Moran	Thune
Hoever	Paul	Toomey
Inhofe	Risch	Vitter
Johanns	Roberts	
Johnson (WI)	Rubio	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. WARREN). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate resume legislative session and proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Ohio.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator STABENOW be recognized for up to 3 minutes and that I be recognized for up to 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE FARM BILL

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I appreciate my friend from Ohio yielding for a moment. I wanted to make a short statement as it relates to moving forward on the farm bill and congratulate the House for sending their version of the farm bill to us this morning.

Tomorrow it will be our intent—Senator COCHRAN and I—to go through the motions that it takes to be able to send our farm bill back and ask for a conference committee. I wanted to let all the Members know that. If there is a concern, I would appreciate that Members approach me or Senator COCHRAN directly because this is an opportunity for us to move forward and actually put together this bill. The farm bill affects 16 million people in this country who work in agriculture, as well as everyone who counts on the great work of our farmers in order to have the healthiest, most affordable food system in the world.

Tomorrow it is our intent to move forward on the farm bill, so if there are any questions or concerns from Members, we are happy to work with them.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank the chairwoman of the agriculture committee for her work. This is legislation that saves taxpayers literally tens of billions of dollars while

strengthening the safety net. The bill provides adequate revenue and nutrition for literally millions of people—children, seniors, people on disability, and people who work in low-income jobs—and that is also important in this agriculture bill.

CORDRAY CONFIRMATION

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, in the years leading up to the financial crisis, the biggest banks and lenders created new ways to make record profits off of consumers. They made predatory loans to working-class families, created prepaid cards with exploitative fees, and gave out student loans to first-generation college students with interest rates sometimes as high as 20 percent.

Today millions of consumers are still trying to recover from these unscrupulous practices while companies keep looking for new ways to increase their profits at the expense of these consumers. Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to protect Americans from consumer fraud and abusive fees and products.

I thank the Presiding Officer for her role in this before she came to the Senate.

More than 700 days since its creation, American citizens are now just getting to vote for a consumer watchdog to head the organization. Because of the CFPB, consumers can now decipher credit card applications and have help correcting erroneous credit reports.

Because of these successes, confirming Richard Cordray as the Director was right. We know where he stands. We know for whom he stands—as a strong advocate for consumers, families, and small businesses.

No one doubted Richard Cordray's qualifications or temperament for the job. This is the first time in American history when one party refused to confirm a nominee because they didn't like the agency. A terrible precedent was being set. Thankfully a number of our colleagues understood—as we discussed last night—it was important to move past that.

Richard Cordray served as Ohio's first State solicitor. He represented the U.S. Government before the Supreme Court. He has been elected the attorney general and State treasurer of Ohio. He has received bipartisan accolades and support from Ohio's business and consumer groups.

Let me share a bit of a letter written by a Republican Member of Congress from my home State, Representative STEVE STIVERS.

Rich has always proven himself hard-working, collaborative, and pragmatic.

If you take the time [...] to evaluate Rich's character and disposition, you will find him to be an individual who listens to your opinion and seeks mutually acceptable solutions.

Representative STIVERS is right. Under Cordray's leadership, the Bureau has earned praise from industry and

consumer groups alike for the rules it has come up with. It has already recovered millions of dollars for consumers from credit card companies, credit repair companies, and others. That is why consumers won a victory today and should be happy that the 2-year-long process that has prevented Richard Cordray from being considered has finally come to an end and we can now move forward.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

TRIBUTE TO EDWARD EARL GIDCUMB

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I rise to pay tribute to a distinguished Kentuckian who is looked up to and admired by many in the Commonwealth for his character and his service to our country: Mr. Edward Earl Gidcumb. Mr. Gidcumb, or "Earl" to his friends, celebrates his 88th birthday this July 31. He served America during World War II as a storekeeper, second class, in the U.S. Navy, and survived some harrowing experiences.

Earl's story is commemorated in a book titled "WWII DC: The Long Overdue Journey," which details the experiences of World War II veterans from Kentucky and describes a trip made by these Kentucky veterans to the Nation's capital in 2004 to visit the National World War II Memorial. Earl still is an active participant in the Kentucky veterans community as one of the few buglers left in western Kentucky; he plays taps at military funerals and civic events. Earl also contributed to the establishment of the Kentucky Veterans and Patriots Museum in Wickliffe, Kentucky.

Earl was a high-school student when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. He graduated from high school on May 23 of 1943; on May 25, he was sworn into Naval service in Marion, IL.

Earl underwent training in Chicago and then served aboard several vessels, the first of which, the U.S. Navy ship LST 218, was bound for Pearl Harbor. Earl recalls, "water supply was very short and we took salt-water baths using a special soap for bathing in salt water. We slept in bunks stacked six high and down below the main deck . . . I started out in the Atlantic Ocean and ended up on the Pacific Ocean."

Earl spent time in Pearl Harbor before being posted to the USS *Indianapolis* CA 35, a heavy cruiser. He received five battle stars while serving on the *Indianapolis* for 10 months. A few months after being transferred off that ship, the *Indianapolis* was sunk by a Japanese submarine.

"I would not be here today if I had remained aboard the *Indy*," Earl says. "The second torpedo of the two that sunk it hit the part of the ship where I slept each night. There [were] 1,196 aboard, 800 went down with the ship, [and] 317 survived after several days in the water. Some died from their wounds, some were eaten by sharks,